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## **ADAPTING THE FIVE DOMAINS TO AN AQUATIC WORLD (AQUATIC ANIMAL WELFARE)**

By

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### **ABSTRACT**

Understanding welfare considerations for all species displayed in ZAA aquariums and zoos is a high priority. As an industry we must be able to provide evidence that we are caring for our animals in the best way possible. This will become increasingly important in the years ahead as we face our detractors that would close down aquariums and zoos.

In the past ten to fifteen years, the Five Domains of animal welfare have completely replaced the Five Freedoms and become the standard for examining animal welfare globally. Studying and understanding the Five Domains of nutrition, environment, health, behaviour and how these first four Domains lead to the fifth Domain (the mental domain) can provide valuable insight into the welfare of the animals in our care.

The Five Domains were initially developed within a terrestrial viewpoint. In this presentation, we will examine each of the Five Domains in detail. How they can then be applied in our aquatic environment (as they pertain to fish) for the benefit of the animals in our care. As a culmination, we will look at the fifth domain in detail and examine sentience and pain in fish.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

#### **Dr Rob Jones (The Aquarium Vet)**

Dr Rob has worked as a veterinarian in the aquarium industry for the past 22 years. Initially at the Melbourne Aquarium, he now consults to all the public aquaria in Australia and New Zealand as well as several in Asia. Commencing in 2003, he organized a research team pioneering artificial reproduction techniques in elasmobranchs, which culminated in their first AI shark born in March 2014 with semen transferred from another facility.

Rob realized that there was no shortcut to gaining knowledge in the aquarium field and so developed the world's first online course for aquarists and others working in the aquarium industry. In May 2011, the E-aquarist course™ was launched. It has become an internationally recognized course and The Aquarium Vet is an Association of Zoos and Aquariums Recognized Learning Partner. In 2021, Aquarium School was launched to increase the knowledge of people having aquariums at home